



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE ARRESTS TWO FOR SELLING FAKE DESIGNER MERCHANDISE**

CHICAGO – Two Chicago men accused of selling counterfeit designer merchandise were arrested this morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents following an investigation and seizure last month of nearly \$4.5 million dollars of counterfeit handbags, wallets and accessories, including trademark names such as Gucci, Coach, Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Prada.

Boubacar Fall, 40, and Ousman Busso, 44, were arrested this morning without incident by ICE agents at their N. Kenmore residence.

The investigation began in December after an ICE agent attended a trade show at Chicago's Navy Pier and observed the company Mammadoe Gal allegedly selling a large quantity of suspected counterfeit handbags. Further investigation by ICE agents revealed that the company was also allegedly selling counterfeit designer goods at the Swap-O-Rama flea market in Alsip, Ill.

ICE agents executed federal search warrants at four locations around Chicago March 2 and seized approximately 9,500 imposter designer items, including handbags, wallets and accessories. Items were also seized from the Mammadoe Gal booth at the Swap-O-Rama flea market. The seized items have an estimated value of nearly \$4.5 million.

"Trademark fraud poses a serious threat to the American economy," said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE in Chicago. "Trafficking in counterfeit merchandise is a serious criminal offense and ICE will work proactively with law enforcement and private industry to dismantle these criminal schemes."

Nationwide, ICE agents made more than 6,500 seizures of counterfeit merchandise with a domestic value of more than \$94 million last year.

ICE has established a toll-free number for the public to report illegal activity, including information about suspected trafficking in counterfeit merchandise. The number, 1-866-DHS-2ICE, is monitored 24 hours a day.

Fall and Busso are scheduled for an initial appearance today at 3:30pm in U.S. District Court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nan Nolan.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*